

AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0412195712

Address: 17 Light Street

Current Name: Fairfax Savings and Loan

Block: 661 Lot: 16

Lot size: 74 x 74

Height: 4 stories

Materials: Brick & Stone

Condition: Good

Owner: Lightwood Associates

Use: Bank/offices

Accessible: Yes

Designation: None

Liber/Folio: WA 3917-591



Historic Name: Merchants & Miners Transportation Co.

Date: 1904

Architect/Builder: Charles E. Cassell/Edward Brady & Son

Style (if appropriate):

Description:

This four story high brick building with terra cotta trim is three bays wide on the Light Street front facade and five bays wide on Redwood Street. The entrance to the bank on Light Street is located in the center of the rusticated brick first floor level. The recessed semi-circular entrance area features an arched aluminum glass doorway with decorative spandrels and keystone flanked by Corinthian columns and pilasters. The floor of the entrance area is marble, and the ceiling is wood paneled with a hanging lantern. Two large windows with three panes and a filled transom, flank the entrance. The windows are decorated with a Gibbs surround. A dentilled cornice completes the first floor level. The upper floors are defined by four large pilasters between slightly recessed grouped windows -- two on each level at the central bay and three on the end bays. The one over one windows have shared sills and lintels with emphasized keystones. The facade ends with a bracketed cornice and parapet wall. The Redwood Street side is five bays wide with two windows grouped at each bay. The entrance to the upper floors is located at the easternmost bay of this elevation. This entrance is decorated by a large archway with Doric columns, triglyphs, fretwork, and a large keystone. The upper floors of this building have been painted a dark red to match the first level.

Significance:

Area: Architecture

Level: Local

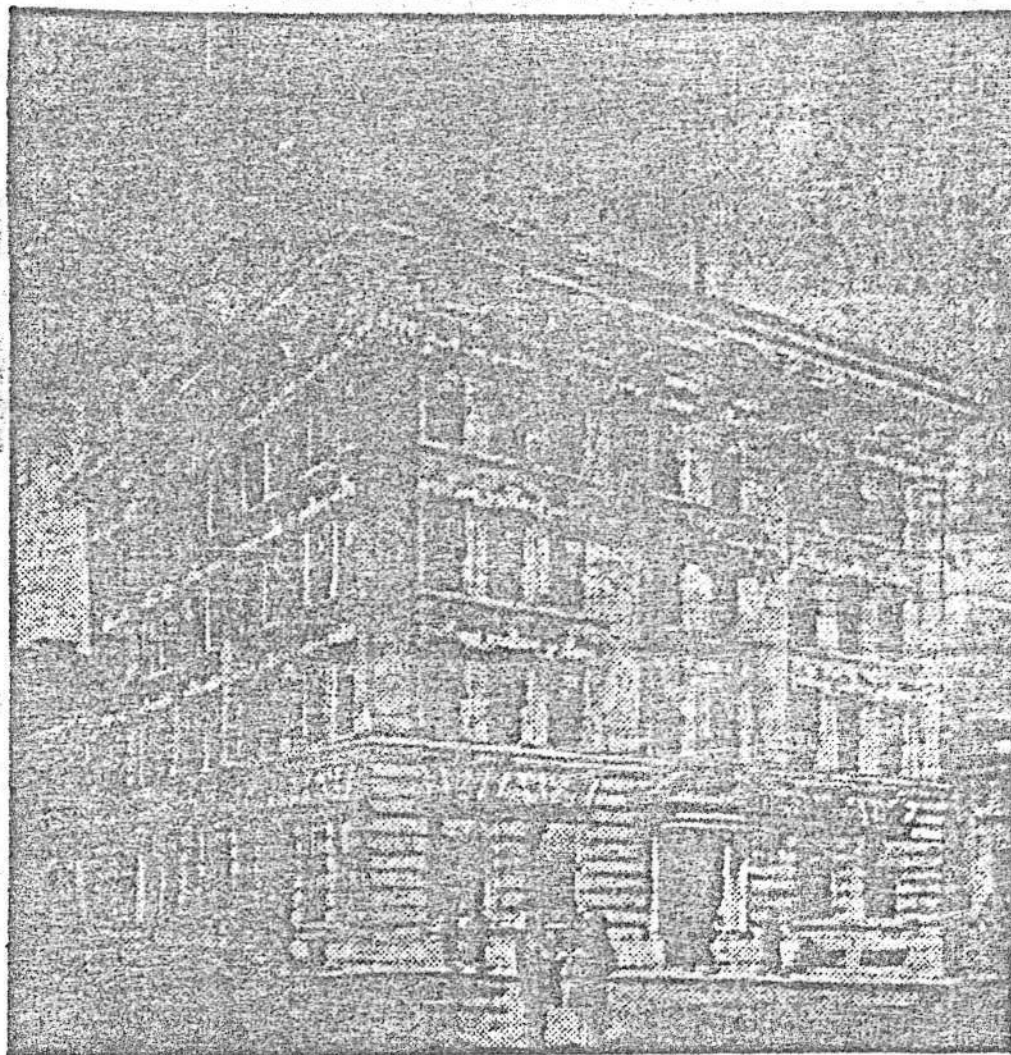
This building is typical of the fine architecture along Redwood Street and the buildings constructed immediately after the Baltimore Fire. It is a symmetrical design with a large cornice, flat roofline and classical detailing. An early photograph of the building shows a different first floor design, although elements on the present first floor, such as rustication and the Gibbs surround at the windows, appears in a perspective drawing for the building before it was constructed. It is possible that the first floor was altered shortly after the building was constructed. The Merchants and Miners Transportation Company originally occupied the building. The company was founded in 1852 and soon became an important freight and passenger steamship company. Beginning with two wooden vessels, the company grew to a fleet of twenty-six ships. The company folded in 1951.

Sources: BS 9/2/1904, p. 7, c. 4-5 perspective drawing; BS 8/31/1904, p. 10 c. 8, permit issued.

Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, March 1985.

17 Light Street

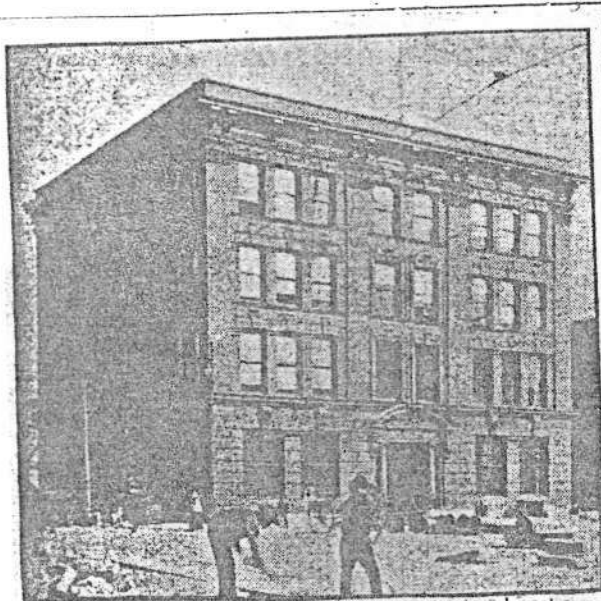
THREE BUILDINGS FOR BURNT DISTRICT



FOR MERCHANTS AND MINERS' TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

The above is an illustration of the four-story office building to be erected by the Merchants and Miners' Transportation Company at the southeast corner of Light and German streets. The structure, which was designed by Charles E. Cassell & Son, architects, will have a Kibbe stone base, with walls of pressed brick and terra cotta to harmonize in color with the stone. There will be two entrances, one on German street and the other on Light street, which will lead to the stairway and elevators. Both entrances will be of ornamental design, with the prow of a ship as a keystone or center piece. The first floor will be entirely fireproof and all of the corridors will be finished in asbestolith. The interior woodwork will be of oak, cabinet finished. The building will be 74 feet square. Edward Brady & Son are the contractors.

17 Light Street



M. & M. T. CO.'S NEW BUILDING.
Handsome new structure erected at German, Light and Mercer streets, occupied as general headquarters by the Company. The building is four stories high, and a force of from 75 to 100 will occupy it.

Maryland Institute Scrapbook

B-1219

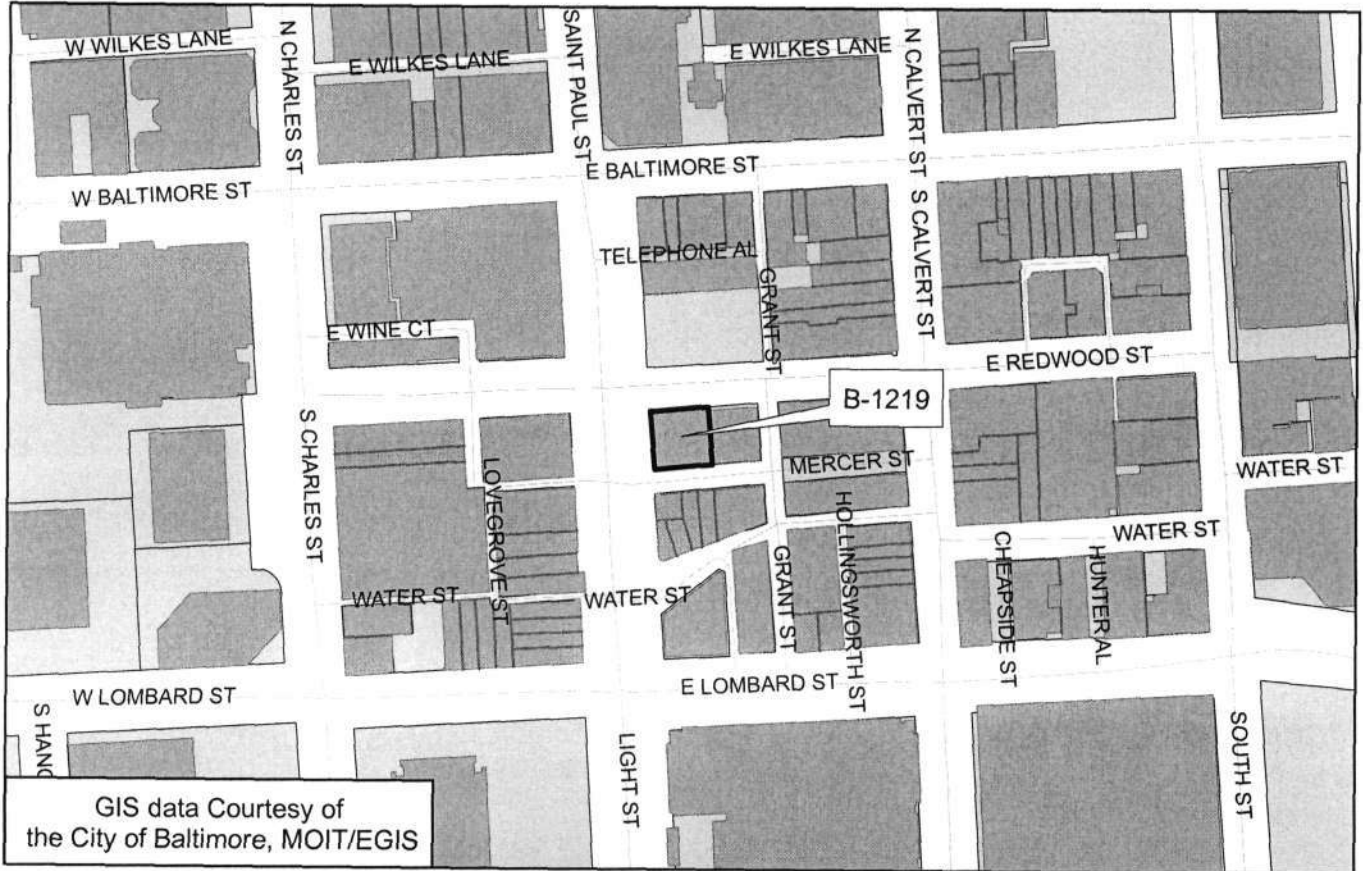
Merchants & Miners Transportation Company (Fairfax Savings & Loan, Gillet Building)

17 Light Street

Block 0661 Lot 016

Baltimore City

Baltimore East Quad



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





B-1219

Merchants & Miners Transportation
Company
17 Light Street
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Fred Shoken
Date: October 1983
Neg.loc. Maryland Historical Trust
West elevation